Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the three paragraphs beginning at page 4, line 9 and extending to page 5, line 10, with the following:

~~In yet a further embodiment of the invention, a filter assembly for use with a fuel cell is provided, which can include at least one inlet configured to receive a dirty gas stream, an outlet adapted to be connected in communication with an oxidant inlet of a fuel cell, a particulate filter, a chemical filter comprising carbon adsorbent material, with the particulate and chemical filters being configured, in combination, to remove particulate and gas phase contaminates from the dirty gas stream and to provide a cleaned gas stream, suitable for use by a fuel cell, to the outlet.~~

~~The invention also encompasses fuel cell systems. In one embodiment, a fuel cell system is provided which comprises a fuel cell having an oxidant inlet and a filter assembly having an inlet, a filter element, and an outlet, the inlet being configured to receive a dirty oxidant stream having gas phase contaminants, the filter element adapted to remove the gas phase contaminants from the dirty oxidant stream received through the inlet, to provide a cleaned oxidant stream, and the outlet being configured for connection to the fuel cell oxidant inlet, through which the cleaned oxidant stream passes to the fuel cell. The filter element can include adsorbent material that is at least one solid mass of adsorbent material, that is extruded activated carbon, that is shaped, such as with a curved shape, or, it can include granulated adsorbent material. In another embodiment, a fuel cell system is provided which comprises a fuel cell having an oxidant inlet, and a filter assembly having an inlet configured to receive a dirty oxidant stream having gas phase contaminants, a filter element adapted to condition the dirty oxidant stream received through the inlet, to provide a cleaned oxidant stream with gas phase contaminants below a predetermined threshold limit, and an outlet configured for connection to the fuel cell oxidant inlet, through which the cleaned oxidant stream passes to the fuel cell. Another embodiment of the invention is a method of controlling contaminants within a gas stream to a gas inlet of a fuel cell. The method includes providing a filter assembly comprising a particulate filter and a chemical filter comprising carbon absorbent material, each of the particulate filter and the chemical filter having an inlet and an outlet; passing a dirty gas stream~~

~~into the inlet of each of the particulate filter and the chemical filter to remove contaminants from the dirty gas stream to provide a cleaned gas stream; and providing the cleaned gas stream to the gas inlet of the fuel cell.~~

Various other embodiments and configurations are disclosed.